## Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS COPY TO RICHARD A. FRANK, NOAA AND CHARLES EDDY, DEPT OF INTERIOR

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

**REF: STATE 115413** 

1. BEST REFERENCE POINT ON ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BY DEEPSEA MINING CONTRACTORS IS FORMULA PROPOSED BY NJENGA ON 2 MAY. IN ESSENCE PROPOSED CHANGES (A) REQUIRE CONTRACTOR TO GIVE AUTHORITY GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY USED ON A CONTINUING BASIS; (B) AFTER CONCLUSIN OF MINING CONTRACT, REQUIRE CONTRACTOR TO NEGOTIATE A SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT MAKING TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO THE ENTERPRISE ON COMMERCIAL TERMS; (C) REQUIRE CONTRACTOR TO OBTAIN FROM THIRD PARTIES SELLING TECHNOLOGY TO CONTRACTOR ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO SELL TO AUTHORITY ON COMMERCIAL TERMS; (D) REQUIRE CONTRACTOR TO FACILITATE THE SALES DESCRIBED IN (C) ABOVE; AND (E) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRE THE SAME OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPLOIT THE CORRESPONDING RESERVED SITE BANKED BY THE CONTRACTOR PROVIDED THAT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITING THAT SITE ONLY AND THAT THE TRANSFER WOULD NOT INVOLVE TRANSFER TO ANY DEVELOPED COUNTRY NATIONALS. CONCILIATION, AND IF NECESSARY BINDING ARBITRATION ON

QUESTION WHETHER CONTRACTOR'S UNDERTAKINGS HAVE BEEN FULFILLED, ARE REQUIRED IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS. US INTENDS TO STATE THAT (E) ABOVE IS UNNECESSARY, OBJECTIONABLE, AND WOULD IMPERIL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AUTHORITY. US ALSO WILL EXPRESS RESERVATIONS CONCERNING (C) AND TO COMPULSORY ARBITRATION, BUT BELIEVES THAT THESE MIGHT BE ACCEPTED IN FUTURE AS PART OF COMPROMISE PACKAGE.

2. IN ANSWER TO YOUR SPECIFIC OUESTIONS: (1) US AND EC HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD ACCEPT CONCILIATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND BINDING ARBITRATION OF ISSUE OF GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATION, BUT NOT BINDING ARBITRATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS. (2) WE CONCUR THAT BOTH PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN (1) ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN PRESSURE ON CONTRACTOR TO ACCEPT TERMS AND CONDITIONS AT LEAST WITHIN A STATED RANGE. ONCE PRINCIPLE OF OBLIGATORY NEGOTIATION OF COMMERCIAL TERMS IS CONCEDED, IT IS DIFF\*CULTTO RESIST ARGUMENT THAT SOME METHOD OF RESOLVING DISPUTES MUST BE AUTHORIZED OR WHOLE PROVISION IS MEANINGLESS. WHETHER CONTRACTOR'S OFFERS ARE REASONABLE COMMERCIAL OFFERS IS A KEY ISSUE IN DETERMINING WHETHER HE HAS FULFILLED HIS OBLIGATION. ONE ADVANTAGE AT LEAST OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IS MINIMIZING POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATION. (3) WE BELIEVE COMMENTS ABOVE STATE THE US POSITION. NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE MAY BE ASCRIBED TO THE REFERENCED PARAGRAPH. (4)(A) ONLY RIGHTS TO USE TECHNOLOGY IN DEEPSEA MINING WOULD BE COVERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY TRANSFER OBLIGATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. (4)(B) MINER WOULD, INTER ALIA, FURNISH AUTHORITY WITH LISTS OF SOURCES AND PRICES, AND PERHAPS REMIND THIRD PARTIES OF OBLIGATION THEY HAVE ASSUMED. (4)(C) NJENGA DRAFT PROVIDES MONETARY DAMAGES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ARBITRATION AWARE AND US INTERPRETS THIS TO EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF TERMINATION FOR SUCH FAILURE. PARAGRAPH 12 OF ANNEX II GIVES AUTHORITY POSSIBILITY OF TERMINATION FOR OTHER VIOLATIONS IN EXTREME CASES.

3. GENERAL FEELING OF US DELEGATION IS THAT REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT ENTERPRISE WILL BE ABLE TO BUY TECHNOLOGY ON LIMITED BASIS IS MINIMUM CONDITION FOR ACCEPTABLE COMMITTEE ONE COMPROMISE. G-77 HAVE DEEPLY ROOTED CONVICTION THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRY CONSORTIA WILL REFUSE TO SELL TECHNOLOGY OR TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO ENTERPRISE IN ABSENCE OF SUCH REQUIREMENT. RICHARDSON

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